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Examiner's Proposal packet

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Dates

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To:

Ms. Christa Hildebrand

From:

JAMES O. HANSEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Application/Control Number:

10/509,287

Art Unit:

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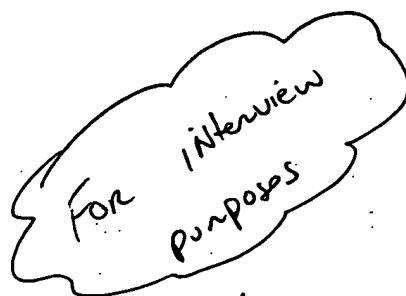
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Urgent For Review For Comment For Reply Per Your Request

Comments:

Attached is a proposed amendments to the claims, so as to place the application in condition for allowance.




JAMES O. HANSEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Number of pages 4 including this page

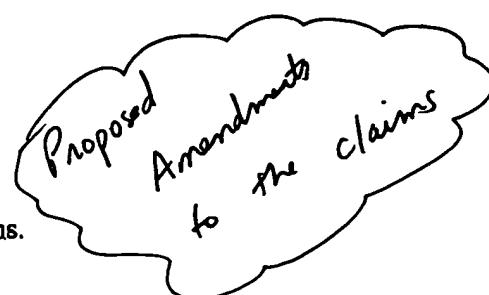
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IN THE CLAIMS

The present listing of the claims replaces all past listings of the claims.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A self-closing drawer guide with, comprising
 - a guide rail for attachment attached to a body wall of an item of furniture, ;
 - and a running rail for attachment to a furniture drawer, ^{which} running rail ^{is} being supported relative to the guide rail, and attached to the drawer, optionally with an interposed center rail;
 - a ratchet housing arranged on one of either the running rail or the guide rail, ; ~~whereby a movable ratchet element residing in the ratchet housing, the ratchet element that is pretensioned in two end first and second positions that are spaced apart in the a relative movement direction of the guide rail and running rail, drawer is provided in a ratchet housing arranged on one of the two aforementioned outer rails, with the ratchet element having comprising a receptacle for adapted to receive a catch, which enters the receptacle when the rails guide rail and the running rail move relative to each other to approach the a closed position, thereby disengaging the pretensioned movable ratchet element from the corresponding end first position and moving the ratchet element by spring tension into the other end second position, the ratchet element entraining the corresponding guide or running rail by the catch held in the receptacle in the closing direction of the drawer, ; and a cylindrical housing fixedly arranged to the ratchet housing, the cylindrical housing comprising characterized in that the a spring assembly comprises a piston and a spring, the piston having disposed in an elongated cylindrical housing with a piston rod that is attached to the piston and projects outwardly from one end of the cylindrical housing, and that the spring of the spring assembly being arranged between the piston and one of the end walls that at least partially closes off an end face of the cylindrical housing, and that pretensions, the spring being adapted to pretension the movable ratchet element via the piston rod is arranged between the piston and one of the end walls that at least partially close off the~~

end face of the cylindrical housing, and

that the housing of the spring assembly is fixedly arranged on the rail that supports the movable ratchet element.

2. (Currently Amended) The self-closing drawer guide of claim 1, characterized in that
• wherein the ^{an} one end of the ratchet housing facing the piston rod that operates the ratchet element is provided with an elongated extension which supports the cylindrical housing that receives the pretensioned spring.

3. (Currently Amended) The self-closing drawer guide of claim 2, characterized in that
• wherein the ratchet housing and the extension that supports the cylindrical housing form an elongated rail-like integral component.

↳ either omit or use "rail shaped"

4. (Currently Amended) The self-closing drawer guide of claim 3, characterized in that
• wherein the integral component is an integrated plastic component.

5. (Currently Amended) The self-closing drawer guide according to one of claims 1 to 4 for a full extension, with a claim 7, wherein the center rail disposed between the running rail and the guide rail and is supported for longitudinal movement relative to these rails, the running rail and the guide rail, said center rail supporting the running rail and the guide rail with a vertical mutual spacing therebetween, characterized in that and wherein the ratchet housing and the spring assembly are arranged in the intermediate space between the running rail and the guide rail.

claim 5 (ok as is)

6. (Currently Amended) The self-closing drawer guide of claim 5, characterized in that

• wherein the ratchet housing that movably supports the ratchet element is arranged on the running rail, while the catch is arranged on the guide rail. (disclosed in amended claim 1)

• 7. (new) The self-closing drawer guide of claim 5, further comprising a center rail disposed between the guide rail and the running rail.

→ claim 1 ?

* claims 5 & 7 depend back on each other.

10/509,287

January 12, 2006

Examiner's Proposed Amendments to the Claims

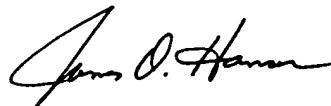
The major issue in claim 1 that is addressed by the proposal concerns the "positioning" of the ratchet housing with respect to the rails. The specification and drawings provide clear support for the claimed language as now proposed; but an outstanding issue is present, if left as currently amended, i.e., no clear support for the ratchet housing attached to the guide rail. It is noted that the last paragraph in the specification does provide for the opportunity for such a reversal, but since the drawings are void of this possibility, it would not be readily clear what a drawing correction would/could entail [possible new matter situation].

The examiner makes note that claims 5 & 7 as currently amended raise 112(2) issues since both claims depend back on each other. Changing claim's 7 dependency [either claim 1, 2, 3 or 4] would obviate the problem.

The remaining proposed corrections are either minor 112(2) issues or grammatical in nature.

It is noted that **Section Headings** are presently missing from the specification and would need to be added.

The examiner gives applicant until Wednesday Jan. 18th to respond to the proposed request. If accepted, applicant may submit a supplemental amendment [claims & specification] or defer to an examiner's amendment.



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Ex. Hansen